

DAYTON USA
DAYTON, OHIO
BI-MONTHLY 8,500

DEC

1977

Byrd

PAST

ucsla f831 barney-e-0001

Mr. Barney

On the front page of the *Dayton Daily Journal*, 18 December 1880 under the heading "DIED" was the following:

"BARNEY—on Friday December 17, 1880, at 4:30 p.m., Eliam E. Barney, aged 73 years."

Those simple words noted the passing of a man who rose from harsh poverty to become a teacher of great abilities, a benefactor of colleges, vice-president of a bank, vice-president of a railroad, and Dayton's leading industrialist.

Eldest of eleven children, Eliam was born 14 October 1807 in Henderson, New York. His father, Benjamin, was a farmer, barely able to provide for his large family, but quite willing to invest time and what little money was available into a learning academy. This academy was located at Bellville, New York, and Eliam was among the first pupils. His father insisted that Eliam get an education, then, when he would later be earning a living, he should help his younger sisters and brothers get theirs.

At age 18 Barney taught school, and a short time later he entered

Union College at Schenectady. While in college, to help defray expenses, he taught an evening class in writing. He found he had a natural ability in teaching and was well liked by his students for his stern, but fair methods.

During his college years he wore clothing that had been spun, woven and colored by his mother and sisters. The material was from Saxon or Merino sheep, which his father raised.

Following his graduation in 1831 he taught for a while at Sand Lake, New York, and was principal of Lowville Academy for two years. In 1833 he moved to Granville, Ohio, where he filled in for a professor at Denison University, who hadn't as yet arrived. Years later one of his students stated, "We all loved him as a teacher and a brother."

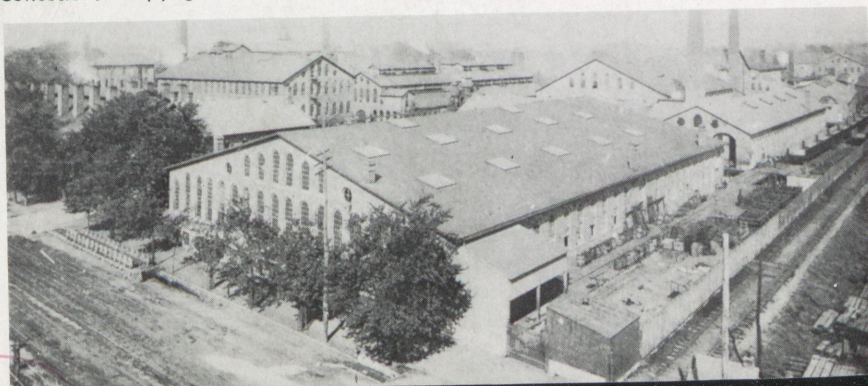
Barney sent letters to postmasters around Ohio asking if there were any teaching positions open in their area. Postmaster Cathcart of Dayton was the only one who answered, and in 1834 Barney moved to Dayton.

Taking over the Dayton Academy, where later Central High School would be built, Barney immediately changed Dayton's method of teaching. For one thing he put single seats in classrooms, which until then students had sat together on long benches. Among his earliest pupils were men who would later distinguish themselves in the Dayton community. Such names as Robert Steele, Wilbur Conover, John Edgar and William Bomberger sat in Barney's first classes.

A short time after coming to Dayton, Barney married Julia Smith who had been his teaching assistant at Lowville, and had followed him to his new assignment. Also during his tenure as teacher he fulfilled the promise he'd made

□□□□□□□□ continued on page 6

The Barney and Smith Car Works began in 1849. Photo from the William Lutzenberger Collection. Copyright 1976, The Dayton Junior League of Dayton, Ohio, Incorporated.



Patchwork *continued from page 4*
his father years earlier. He helped his younger sisters and brothers through school, and the older ones he brought to Dayton to work with him at the academy.

In 1839, due to poor health, Barney gave up teaching and bought a sawmill on Wayne Avenue. In 1845 he sold the mill to Ebenezer Thresher, but by then Barney was back in the Dayton educational system. He had signed a five year contract to head a new private school for girls. It was called Cooper Seminary and here were taught most of the prominent young ladies of the time.

In 1849 Barney's contract ended but he was induced to stay on another year. In the meantime he had entered into a business relationship with Thresher, who had sold the sawmill. Both put up \$5,000 and bought a piece of land in the northeast section of the city. Undecided at first what kind of business they wanted, Thresher took a trip east and came back excited about the railroad-car field. It was the beginning of an enterprise that would last better than seventy years, long after both men had died.

The first building was erected in 1850, and the first railroad car was built and shipped to Lafayette, Indiana. As there were no railway tracks into Dayton at that time the cars had to be shipped by way of canals and the Ohio River. In the following years, the cars they produced became known for the excellence of the material used, mostly wood in those days, and the quality of the workmanship.

Because of poor health Thresher sold his part of the business to Caleb Parker in 1854. For the next ten years the business was known as Barney, Parker and Company. During this period more acreage was bought, more buildings built, and their sales went all over the country. From 1861 to 1865, with the Civil War raging, they turned out railroad cars for the United States government for military purposes.

In 1864 Parker sold out to Preserved Smith and the company later became incorporated as "The Barney and Smith Manufacturing Company of Dayton, Ohio." In time it became Dayton's largest in-

□□□□□□□□ *continued on page 7*

UCLa1831barney-e-0002

dustury, with over 20 buildings on 18 acres, and employed more than 1,000 men.

The company had a national reputation and Barney built luxury cars for George Pullman of Chicago. These cars were made of the finest woods and finished inside with carpeting and draperies.

A magazine, the *RAILROAD RECORD*, in 1867 noted that the Barney and Smith Car Works was "one of the most extensive and best managed works in the West, if not in the whole country." At the time they were turning out 20 freight and two passenger cars a month.

In addition to the car works Barney was an active member of the Baptist church (a lifelong devotion), vice-president and principal stockholder in the Second National Bank of Dayton, a director of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, and president of the Cooper Hydraulic Company of Dayton. As if this wasn't enough he was an active conservationist, contributing several articles to magazines on the need to preserve our forests. He felt the catalpa tree was the answer to America's rapidly expanding need for more and more wood.

Before his death he saw his three sons holding management positions in the car works, and later they would run the operation. At his death the company that had started out with a \$10,000 investment was worth more than \$750,000.

During his lifetime Barney contributed \$67,000 to Denison University, and in 1879 was conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He was generous also to his employes, and for this he had their respect and loyalty, even though he was a strict employer, firing them on the spot if he was so inclined.

The car works were finally liquidated in the early 1920's, 40 years after the founder's death.

What is now known as The Children's Medical Center, formerly Barney Community Center, established in 1918, was begun by one of Barney's granddaughter's, Anna B. Gorman. Barney could be proud of what it represents, and what he helped to pass on to future generations.

CLASS OF 1831

ELIAM E. BARNEY

Came to Dayton in 1834 as principal of the academy, and on October 10, 1834, married Julia Smith, of Galway, N. Y. In 1840, owing to poor health, he gave up teaching, and bought a saw mill of Ebenezer Thresher, on the corner of Wayne Street and the canal. When the Cooper Female Seminary was completed, at the request of the trustees he took charge of it. In the summer of 1849 Ebenezer Thresher and Mr. Barney started the Car Works. In 1854 Mr. Thresher sold his interest to Caleb Parker, who had recently moved to Dayton from Boston, and the business was continued under the name of Barney, Parker and Company until 1864, when Mr. Parker sold his interest to Preserved Smith, and the firm name was changed to Barney, Smith & Co. The business was conducted by this firm until 1867, when a joint stock company was formed as Barney & Smith Manufacturing Co., of which Mr. Barney was president until his death. Mr. Barney was also vice-president of the Second National Bank, director of the Wisconsin Central Railroad and president of the Cooper Hydraulic Company. He was a prominent member of the Baptist Church and assisted largely in placing it on a firm basis. Mr. Barney died December 17, 1880. His wife survived him many years. They had six children, of whom five are still living---Eugene, J. Barney, Mrs. Agnes Barney Platt, Mrs. Mary Barney Platt, Albert Barney and Edward E. Barney.

Pioneer Life In Dayton & Vicinity pp. 225-6
John F. Edgar
Dayton, Ohio 1896.

Principal of Dayton Academy 1834-39 p. 250.

E. E. Barney, a graduate of Union College, N. Y., and a remarkable teacher and man. Mr. Barney by the introduction of the analytical method, exercised an important influence on our public schools. Teachers educated by him carried these methods into the schools in advance of most places in the West, and gave them in their early history a high reputation.
pp.92-3

in 1845, Cooper Female Seminary was opened in charge of E. E. Barney, and at once became known throughout Ohio, by reason of the strong personality, magnetism and culture of Mr. Barney as an attractive and scholarly institution. p.184

Early Dayton
Robert W. and Mary Davies Steele
Dayton, Ohio 1896.

1831

ELIAM E. BARNEY:

A native of Orleans, Jefferson county, completed his academic course at this Academy and at Ellisburgh, graduated at Union College in 1831, taught in the Lowville Academy for two years, and then removed to Dayton, Ohio. He was employed as a teacher of the Dayton Academy six years, when his health failing, he went into other business four years. He then took charge of the Cooper Female Academy six years, when he resigned, and has since been in other business. He is now of the firm of Barney, Parker & Co., car builders, at Dayton. His lady, formerly Miss Julia Smith, a native of Galway, N.Y., was educated at Galway and Ballston High Schools, and taught two years in the Lowville Academy, and afterwards at Dayton.

Lowville Academy p. 82
Semi-Centennial Anniversary
July 21 & 22, 1858
Lowville
1858.

CLASS OF 1831

ELIAM E. BARNEY

Was a native of Ellisburgh, Jefferson county, and related, if we are not mistaken, to the families of that name in Henderson, and to Collector Hiram Barney of New York City. He prepared for college at this academy (Lowville) and at Ellisburgh. From Lowville he removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he taught an academy six years, but his health requiring a change of occupation he went into business. He was afterwards for six years principal of the Cooper Female Academy, but again leaving the profession, he became a partner in the firm of Barney, Parker & Co., and finally of Barney & Smith. This firm was largely engaged in car-building and employed a thousand men or more in the business, which was conducted with much success. His wife was Miss Julia Smith, of Galway, who was educated at that place, and at Ballston High School. She taught two years at Lowville and afterwards at Dayton.

Mr. Barney late in life, became interested in making known the advantages offered by the Western Catalpa tree (*Catalpa speciosa*,) for cultivation, and distributed large editions of pamphlets which he wrote upon the subject. This was done gratuitously, and not to promote the interest of any particular nursery operation. He died at Dayton about 1880 Or 1881.

History of Lewis County, N. Y. p. 350
Franklin B. Hough
D. Mason & Co.
Syracuse, N. Y.
1883.

CLASS OF 1831

ELIAM E. BARNEY

Became principal of the Lowville Academy at Lowville, N. Y., in 1831, together with Cyrus M. Fay, Union 1831. He remained two years. Mr. Barney was a native of Jefferson County and now resides at Dayton, Ohio.--- History of Lewis County, N.Y. p. 165 by F. B. Hough, 1860.

A.... *ELIAM ELIAKIM BARNEY.

1829

Born Oct. 14, 1807, at Henderson, N. Y.; Died Dec. 17, 1880, at Dayton, O.
Entered from Ellisburgh, N. Y..... A. B. 1831; LL.D. Denison, 1880;

Φ B K.

Teacher, and later, Manufacturer. Principal Lowville Academy, N. Y., 1832-33; Professor of Greek in Granville Coll., Ohio (now Denison Univ.), 1833-34; Principal Dayton Academy 1834-40; Merchant at Dayton, O., 1840-45; Principal Cooper Female Academy (Dayton), 1845-50.

Established the Dayton Car Works, 1850, afterwards incorporated as the Smith and Barney Mfg. Co., and was President of this Corporation until his death; for many years President Second National Bank of Dayton.

Trustee Denison Univ. 1850-80; President Ohio Baptist State Convention for several years.

ELIAM E. BARNEY, 1831, of Ellisburgh, was a member of the Adelpic Society.
Adelpic Catallgue 1830 (Died: 1880)



ALUMNI OFFICE
UNION COLLEGE
SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12308
TEL: (518) 370-6168

File: Eliam Barney
1831

July 2, 1980

Mrs. Joan Best
71 Weichers Avenue
Ronkonkoma NY 11779

Dear Mrs. Best,

As per your letter of June 20th, I have re-examined our files on Livingston Guildery Parker (our records show no "o" as in Guilderoy) and am afraid I can find nothing on Jeremiah Parker other than that he was Livingston's father. The single copy sheet is the extent of our records on Mr. Parker, and gives addresses of Watertown NY, Numa IA, Urbana OH, and Livingston IA (which I might add was named for him). You will note that Livingston Parker was educated at Belleville Academy. I phoned our Admissions Office which deals with such schools, and they had no listing for either a Union Academy in Belleville NY or a Belleville Academy.

In investigating Eliam Eliakim Barney 1838, I found that his father was Benjamin Barney, and that Benjamin, who was a farmer, started an academy in Bellville NY for the purposes of educating Eliam, who was the academy's first pupil. Could there be a connection between this academy and the one you seek? I have included a complete copy of our file on Mr. Barney.

There were three professors by the name of Potter at Union - A father and two sons. I believe the one you are seeking is Alonzo Potter, D.D., LL.D.. He was Union class of 1818, a tutor 1819-22, Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy 1822-26, Professor of Rhetoric and Natural Philosophy 1831-45, and Honorary Vice President 1847-65. He was also the father of Clarkson Nott Potter LL.D., Union 1842, who was a tutor from 1845-47, and William A. Potter Union 1864, who was Professor of Architecture and Decorative Art 1878-79. After going through the files of all three men, I found no reference to an Ephraim Potter. I have included a copy of members of the Potter family which are known to us, in the event that you may recognize one of them and find a link.

I hope that you will find this information useful in your research. There will be no charge for the photocopies.

Sincerely yours,

Karen L. Kieffer

Karen L. Kieffer
Union Class of 1982

Encls.

WCSLA831barney-e-0008

71 Weichers Avenue
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
7 July, 1980

Ms. Karen Kieffer
Union College
Alumni Office
Schenectady, NY 12308

Dear Ms. Kieffer:

I want to thank you very much for your cooperation and effort in locating information on our ancestors PARKER, POTTER, and BARNEY. You were most helpful, and the data you sent was most interesting.

I received a letter from a woman in Belleville, NY, who is also doing research, and she sent me some information regarding the Union Academy, Belleville, NY. Old Union burned in Jan, 1923, but one section was rebuilt in Oct, 1924, and another section was added about 1935, and another addition was even made in the early 1950's. It has a beautiful campus and a park containing many, many different types of trees. There is also located on the campus a bell tower dating back to the 1800's, which they hope will be accepted by the National Trust for historic preservation.

Regarding our g.g.grandfather's name, LIVINGSTON GUILDEROY PARKER, I have a general affidavit which I received from the National Archives, regarding his pension claim, and in his own handwriting, he had to duly swear that his name is and always has been the above name shown (which clearly shows an "o" in his middle name. He also stated that for a matter of convenience and to save paper and space, time and ink, he nearly always signs his name L.G. PARKER. I thought you just might want this for your record, in case you ever receive any other inquiries in the future. The affidavit is dated 20 May, 1888, in the state of Iowa, county of Appanoose, and notarized. I have found that human errors are common in all types of records, that is why it is good to have double and even triple proof, whenever it is possible. In this case, I would say the personally signed affidavit receives top priority.

1831

The data on ELIAM E. BARNEY was really a very informative biography on him, and contains many facts that will be valuable to me. I am so pleased and thankful that you sent me all you did. On the POTTER names, I do not see any connection, but I have very little on them anyway, and may come in handy when I do find any more data on them.

Enjoy your summer, and wish you the best in your studies.

Very truly yours,

Joan G. Best

Mrs. Joan Best

File: Eliam Barney 1831

71 Weichers Avenue
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
4 September, 1980

Union College
Alumni Office
Schenectady, NY 12308

Dear Ms. Kieffer:

I am sorry that this letter is long overdue, but this summer has certainly been a busy one. I want to thank you very much for the file search you made for me back in early July, 1980. The information you found was very useful to me, and very much appreciated.

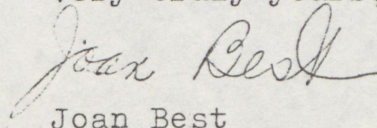
I still haven't been able to track down any information on Livingston Guilderoy Parker's father, Jeremiah Parker that is useful to me in proving our PARKER line. I was hoping there would be something I overlooked when I asked for some records from the school file. But in any case, I will still keep trying through other sources.

The information on Eliam E. Barney was most helpful, as I did not have a record of some of the data you sent on him. The article describing the life and times of him was most interesting, and contained a lot of facts. Most of all, the photo which you copied for me of him in 1831 is really special. As a volunteer Vic-President of the BARNEY FAMILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, this will also be passed on to their files for future references.

I did locate some information on the Union Academy, Belleville, NY, from a woman who was recommended to me by the Principal at this institution. Old Union had burned in 1923, but a new center part was dedicated in 1924, and other wings were added in 1935 and 1950. It has a beautiful campus and a park containing many many different types of trees. There is also located on the campus a bell tower dating back to the 1800's. There is hope it will be accepted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. There was a "BOOK OF MEMORY" which was presented to the Academy in 1879 by an Ira Shepardson of New York City, NY. Money was contributed into a Memorial Endowment Fund by persons wishing to be recorded in this book. It had some more information on some of the BARNEY's. It was most interesting.

Again, I want to say thank you for your generosity and the time you spent in checking your files for me. Good luck in your upcoming year at Union College.

Very truly yours,



Joan Best

Eliam Eliakim Barney A.B. 1831

1831
Clam Clakim Barney A.B.